Foreign Broadcast Information Service

50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 - 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-206
Thursday
24 October 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-206 24 October 1991

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Five-Sided Talks on Peace Conference Open

JN2310114391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Meetings of the foreign ministers of the five Arab countries directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict began at 1245 today. Participating in the meetings are Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Lebanese State Minister for Transport Affairs Shawqi Fakhuri, Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, and PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi.

AMU, Saudi Ministers Arrive

JN2310161791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Abdellatif Filali arrived in Damascus this afternoon to take part in the meetings of the Arab confrontation states' foreign ministers. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', a number of senior Foreign Ministry employees, the Moroccan ambassador in Damascus, and the ambassadors of the Arab Maghreb countries.

Filali made a statement, saying: I represent the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] countries in the meeting of the Arab countries' foreign ministers for coordination before the convening of the peace conference. He also said: It is a good opportunity, where all, for the first time, accepted resorting to peaceful solutions within the framework of UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. He believed that it is a good opportunity to exchange opinions, and coordinate work among the Arab states, whether those directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict or those duty-bound to join hands in this decisive march. He added: I come to Damascus optimistic, and I hope that we all would come out with a unified position to be able to realize the Arab nation's ambitions.

Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Damascus at 1530 today to take part in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab confrontation states. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by the foreign minister, senior Foreign Ministry employees, and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus.

Prince al-Faysal made a statement in which he said that he is always optimistic over every Arab meeting held in Damascus, especially this meeting which comes at this historic period and important stage in the history of the Arab nation. He added: I am here in Damascus to participate on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council states in this brotherly meeting which falls within the framework of coordination to safeguard Arab interests, and so that the Arab position fulfills the Arab objectives in this important meeting.

Morning Session Concludes

JN2310134791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab states bordering Israel began at 1245 today. [passage omitted] The first session, which was adjourned at 1430 today, will resume at 1800 today.

Evening Session Begins

JN2310181291 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1803 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus, 23 Oct (SANA)—Foreign ministers of the five Arab states directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict resumed their meetings at 1845 today.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister and representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Dr. Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan foreign minister and representative of the Arab Maghreb Union, joined the evening session.

Talks Focus on Madrid Conference

JN2310213491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Damascus—The foreign ministers of the five Arab states bordering Israel resumed their meetings at 1845 today. [passage omitted]

The talks during the two meetings dealt with ways of coordinating among the Arab states vis-a-vis the Madrid peace conference. The evening session was adjourned at 2200 today. The meetings will resume tomorrow morning.

Maghreb Interest in Madrid Talks

LD2310183191 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] will have observer status at the Madrid conference on the Middle East. Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Benyahia, who is currently on a visit to Paris, explained this morning what meaning should be read into the Maghreb presence in Madrid. He is questioned by Farida Ayari.

[Begin Benyahia recording] The significance is important, first of all because the Maghreb has responsibilities, it had responsibilities during the conflict, because we were affected in Tunisia and elsewhere by this Israeli-Arab confrontation. Tunisia was bombed, there were further consequences, and the people of the Maghreb moved closer to this land of conflict. Second, the Maghreb was at the center of the peace efforts. I believe that in 1970, 1976, 1982, and 1984, all the Arab summits which dealt with the Palestinian question were on Maghreb soil. The Arab peace plan bears the name of Fes, the PLO has its headquarters in an Arab capital, the Palestinian National Council has held its meeting in Algiers on several occasions, and the meetings of the

Executive Council are also held on Maghreb soil. So I believe we have responsibilities in peacetime, the same as our brothers in the Arab East. [end recording]

Foreign Ministers Issue Statement

JN2410124991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1218 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus—The Arab foreign ministers resumed their meetings at 1130 today. The meeting was concluded at 1300 today with the following statement:

The five Arab parties directly concerned with the peace process held a meeting on the ministerial level in Damascus on Wednesday and Thursday, 23 and 24 October 1991, in the presence of His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council states; and Dr. Abdellatif Filali, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Morocco, representative of the Arab Maghreb Union.

The conferees discussed the topics presented to the peace conference, scheduled to be held in Madrid on 30 October 1991, with the aim of establishing full coordination of the stands of their governments on these topics and ensuring a unified Arab stance throughout the various working stages of the conference and the subsequent talks. The meeting has achieved its purpose and the conferees agreed that the delegations of the five parties would periodically meet to review the proceedings of the conference and the discussions and evaluate the progress made in talks held with any of the five parties during the stages of the conference and the subsequent talks. The ministers emphasized that the unity of the Arab position should be maintained in order to realize the goals the Arab side seeks to achieve during the peace process. Foremost among these goals are the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the immediate halt of settlement activity, and securing the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights for the sake of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Arab League Head on Mideast Peace, Water Issue

NC2310225591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has reiterated that (?a durable and just peace) in the Middle East must be based on the principle of exchanging land for peace and on UN Resolutions 242 and 338, because these represent international legitimacy which calls for recognizing the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to sovereignty over their homeland.

He said Israel immediately must begin to halt the building of settlements in the occupied Arab territories as a goodwill gesture toward the peace conference. He asked: Otherwise, over what will it negotiate?

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR to be published in Friday's edition, he emphasized that East Jerusalem, as is the case with other occupied Arab territories, should be subject to negotiations, because Jerusalem concerns all heavenly religions.

He stressed the need to support the Lebanese Government in its effort to extend its full authority over all the Lebanese territories and to work toward implementing Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanese territories.

He noted that the Middle East region will face a new challenge, that of water. He said there are certain powers whose primary concern is to seize Arab water sources to serve their own goals at the expense of pan-Arab water security. He warned against attempting to seize Arab water sources, saying this is a flagrant challenge to the current regional peace efforts and could turn the region once more into a hotbed of conflict over water resources.

He pointed out that the call by some non-Arab countries for some type of cooperation on rationing and providing water to the region's countries merely is commercial in nature and does not consider security and national dimensions.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that the water issue is a vital one which needs a defined future Arab strategy. He referred to his call for an Arab League water conference of the countries concerned.

Islamic Affairs

Ahmad Jibril Predicts Failure for Madrid Talks

LD2310152691 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Leader of the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine Ahmad Jibril here Wednesday in his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today predicted on the failure of the U.S.-planned talks in Madrid later this month.

Jibril who attended the 4-day international conference in support of the Palestinian revolution which ended here last night, hailed its outcome and said despite the interest of the ruling policy in the West the Western media was forced to reflect the Tehran meeting.

Adverting to the scheduled Middle East conference in Madrid, he predicted that the conference would be a "total washout" for its organizers.

Jibril said division among parties to the conference is already conspicuous, and noted that the Zionist regime intends to participate in the Madrid conference solely for suppressing the current uprising in the occupied Palestine.

In response Velayati said that the only solution to the situation in occupied Palestine rests in the curtailment of

Zionist occupation of those lands which, he said, would be materialized with the help of Muslims and their unity.

Rafsanjani Meets With Syrian Conference Group

LD2310143791 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—A group of Syrian parliamentarians here Wednesday met with Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and appreciated Iran's efforts for organizing a conference in support for the Islamic revolution of the Palestinians Oct. 19-22. The head of the delegation also conveyed the personal regards of the Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Rafsanjani.

In response President Rafsanjani appreciated the friendly feelings of the Syrian president and expressed hope that Syria would continue to stand firmly on its position against expansionist imperialists and the Zionist regime.

Tehran Conference on Palestine Continues

Libyan Secretary Speaks

LD2310164991 Tripoli JANA in English 0928 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, al-Timour [October] 23 (JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—'Abd-al-Raziq Sawsa', the secretary of the General Peoples Congress re-asserted the adherence of the Libyan Arab people to supporting and backing the Palestine people until they are able to liberate their land from the river to the sea and establish their independent state over the whole Palestinian Arab soil. Addressing the international conference in support of the Palestine revolution being held nowadays in Tehran he said: This conference of ours is being held at a time of extreme sensitivity and complexity with regard to the Palestine cause and the future of the Arab-Zionist conflict and at a time the dimensions of the crusade of Zionist conspiracy have become clear against the Arab and the Islamic nation through the preparations underway nowadays to convene what is called the Madrid peace conference with the Zionist enemy. The secretary of the General Peoples Congress explained to the conference that the leader of the revolution had specified in his speech delivered at Banghazi on the occasion of the festival commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Al Gizaria-Gilayneh battle the stance of principal and firmness adopted by Great Jamahariyah towards the Palestine people's cause which considered the presence of the Zionists in Palestine a baseless colonial phenomenon resulting from the Second World War. The solution of the Palestine issue is at the core of returning all Jews who had come to Palestine after 1947 to their original counties and the return of the displaced Palestinian people to their homeland Palestine and establishing a democratic Palestinian state over the whole of Palestine absorbing all Palestinians, Muslim, Christians and Jews. What is called the peace conference scheduled to be held in Madrid is a conference for surrender and imposing the matter of fact and that Great Jamanariyah adheres with the Arab [word indistinct] which are: no truce, no negotiation and no recognition of the Zionist enemy. Those taking part in what is known as the peace conference from the Arabs do not express the will of their nations and we challenge them to hold a referendum for those nations on this conference. The secretary of the General Peoples Congress said that the Palestine cause was the pivot of Great Jamahariyah's foreign policy and defined its relations on the international level on the basis of the stances of states towards the Palestine peoples cause and that the masses of the peoples congresses in Great Jamahariyah had established a university for the Palestinian students called "The Intifadah University."

Secretariat Based in Tehran

LD2310191391 Tehran IRNA in English 1118 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Majlis (parliament) Deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Abdolvahed Musavi Lari was elected head of the Secretariat of the Conference for Supporting the Islamic Revolution of the Palestinian People (intifadah) here last night. According to the final declaration of the 4-day conference, the Secretriat will have its headquarters in Tehran with branches throughout the world. After his election to head the Secretariat, Hojjat ol-Eslam Lari called on scientists, scholars and intellectuals of the Muslim world to forward their views concerning the drafting of a constitution for the Secretriat.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Pankin Issue Statement After Meeting

LD2310200791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] In a joint statement released after the meeting of brother president Abu-'Ammar with the Soviet foreign minister, the two sides affirmed that a just solution of the Palestinian issue is the heart of the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The statement said in part that brother president Abu-'Ammar expressed his high appreciation for the role the Soviet Union is playing within the framework of the peace process.

Brother Abu-'Ammar and Pankin stressed that the opportunity provided by the Madrid conference on the Middle East must not be missed. They stressed once again their desire to continue the contacts and consultations while stressing that a just solution to the Palestinian issue is the essence of any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The statement explained that brother Abu-'Ammar and Pankin held a thorough exchange of views on numerous issues concerning the solution to the Middle East problem.

'Arafat on Amman Visit, Talks Delegation

JN2410091491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Oct 91 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Tunis—AL-DUSTUR, agencies—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has said that he will visit Amman on 30 October to meet with His Majesty King Husayn.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, he noted that during this visit, the fraternal agreement between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples will be signed. He added: I, along with His Majesty King Husayn, will follow up from Amman the progress of talks at the peace conference scheduled to open in the Spanish capital on 30 October.

President 'Arafat said that the Palestinian negotiating delegation and the accompanying advisory council delegation represent all sectors of the Palestinian people. He noted that four members of the advisory council are from occupied Jerusalem, and three from outside the occupied territories.

He said that since the talks will be long and difficult, it has been decided to form an experts committee to accompany the negotiating delegation. He said that among the members of this committee are Palestinian strugglers and nationalist figures, whose names were not mentioned, but who were contacted and will have a role to play in the future.

In another development, the joint technical committee, which comprises Jordanian and Palestinian experts, met in Amman yesterday to discuss technical details related to Palestinian-Jordanian coordination a week before the convening of the peace conference.

An informed source said that the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks will comprise 14 members during the bilateral negotiations, that the Palestinian delegation will also have 14 members, and that each delegation will have its own head. The joint delegation to the conference will include 14 members, seven Jordanians and seven Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Nabil Sha'th on Madrid Talks, Damascus Meeting

JN2410090991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Oct 91 p 17

[By Musa Hawamdah]

[Text] Amman—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said that the meeting of the Arab states bordering Israel in Damascus came as a result of PLO efforts.

Dr. Sha'th stressed that the purpose of the Damascus meeting is to agree not to conclude bilateral Arab-Israeli agreements without resolving the Palestine question and attaining Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

In a lecture he delivered last night at the 'Abd-al-Hamid Shuman Cultural Foundation that was directed by Dr. As'ad 'Abd-al-Rahman, Sha'th cautioned against optimism and called on the Palestinian people to continue the intifadah and to strengthen Palestinian-Arab and Palestinian-European relations.

He noted that the delegation was formed on organizational and geographic bases, and included all sectors of the Palestinian people. Moreover, the formation of the advisory council, which comprises seven members, encompasses Palestinians from outside and Palestinians from Jerusalem.

Dr. Sha'th said that nothing can guarantee the success of the Madrid conference, and added that when Bush said on 6 March that he wants lasting peace, he thus confirms and admits that the Palestinian people can impose their will.

Dr. Sha'th said that we have not and will not relinquish our right to Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories.

He said: The fact that the United States is now in control will create stability, because the absence of control of one party over the other used to push the two parties to create a state of instability. The Americans now want to establish peace. Israel no longer has a role to play as it did in the past.

He said: The Zionist lobby in the United States has fallen. However, Israel will continue to play the role of the reserve, which the United States might need in the future. He stressed the importance of European relations, and relations with the European Community, which in past years extended $350 million in aid to the occupied territories. He said that work with Europe must be vigorously continued in order to implement the Geneva Convention on the Palestinian people.

On Cooperation With Jordan

JN2410073091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24-25 Oct 91 p 1,5

["Special" to the JORDAN TIMES by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—All outstanding issues between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides to the joint delegation which will attend peace talks with Israel next week have been settled and the two sides will continue close coordination throughout the peace process, a senior Palestinian official said Wednesday.

Nabil Sha'th, who heads a committee of Palestinian experts which will guide the negotiating team, reported that his team held a first round of talks with a Jordanian technical committee and described the discussions as successful.

Dr Sha'th, a political adviser to Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said the meeting reviewed the issues that would be discussed during the first three days of the Madrid conference, which will then break up into three sets of bilateral talks.

Dr Sha'th, speaking at a press conference after delivering a lecture at the 'Abd-al-Hamid Shuman Foundation, emphasized the high level of coordination reached between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

"There is every need to coordinate everything before we go to the Madrid conference and that is exactly what we have done today," Dr Sha'th said. "And I think it was a very successful meeting and we shall proceed with these meetings until the success and completion of the peace process."

Dr. Sha'th, who is a member of the Palestine Central Council (PCC), said that there were no problems between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides that needed to be "ironed out."

"We discussed the initial conference, the first three days and the starting positions of the bilateral talks; that is, we are really in the nitty gritty of the process now," Dr Sha'th said.

The meeting of the technical committees come in line with a political agreement reached between Jordan and the PLO.

Dr. Sha'th declined to detail the principles that the Jordanians and Palestinians agree on, but stressed that there was "full coordination; there is a clarity of objectives and we are going together to achieve the rights of our people and to install peace that is lasting, just and comprehensive."

Dr. Sha'th confirmed reports that two members of the Jordanian delegation were from Jerusalem and that the Jordanian government would announce the names. "There is absolutely no constraint on Jerusalemites attending (the peace conference) within the Jordanian delegation," he commented.

Dr. Sha'th, who plans to be present in Madrid in his advisory capacity, said very little of the actual substance of negotiations—other than the broad principles—would be outlined in the opening speeches but the initial days would be important "in setting everybody's agendas and everybody's claims."

"We have to be ready to present our position," Dr Sha'th stated adding that "We have to put clearly the Palestinian rights and claims at the very outset of that negotiating process." The head of the Palestinian delegation will address the opening session, he added.

Dr. Sha'th said the focus of the initial negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis would be the mechanism and timing for transfering "authority" to the Palestinians prior to arriving at a final agreement.

"The start of the bilateral negotiations with Israel will basically discuss the interim period and these negotiations will continue for one whole year, at the end of which the interim self-government of the Palestinian people starts and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians will take place," Dr. Sha'th stated.

Dr. Sha'th repeated a statement made by Mr. 'Arafat Tuesday that the PLO had appointed the Palestinian delegation which was announced by Faysal al-Husayni and that the PLO would continue to instruct the negotiating team.

"The PLO has in effect chosen the delegates to the peace conference in coordination with the Palestinians in the occupied territories," he said. "It (the PLO) named the delegation that preceded this one that negotiated with Mr. Baker, and the PLO will continue to instruct and negotiate in good faith throughout the negotiating process," Dr. Sha'th stressed.

He called on the United States to reopen its dialogue with the PLO, saying that trying to ignore the organisation was "a charade."

Dr. Sha'th asked how the U.S. could "sponsor such a process that is designed to bring about a lasting peace without having real relations with all the parties."

"The American-PLO dialogue is one way to end that charade and bring everything in the open," Dr. Sha'th said, adding that it would strengthen the process for peace and "will give America a better chance of assessing all the parties' resolve to go through peace."

Dr. Sha'th is expected to remain in Amman for further discussions, including further coordination talks between the Jordanians and the actual Palestinian delegates who are scheduled to arrive here Friday.

DFLP Explains Stand on Role in Peace Talks

JN2410114191 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Oct 91 p 19

[Excerpts] We have received the following comment from the Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]:

Mr. Mahmud al-Kayid, editor in chief of the esteemed AL-RA'Y,

Greetings and respects. Would you please publish the following:

Commenting on Mr. 'Isam 'Abd-al-Latif's statement as published by AL-RA'Y on 22 October 1991, and on Mr. Sultan al-Hattab's "Frankly" column published in the same newspaper on 23 October 1991, DFLP Political Bureau Member Saji Salamah has said the following:

The DFLP has already announced its position on the current settlement process: namely, its refusal to participate in the peace conference on the basis of the U.S.

formula. This formula excludes the Palestinians of Jerusalem and the diaspora from representation, attaches no strings to Israel's continued settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territory, and ignores the resolutions of international legitimacy, including our people's right to return to their homeland in accordance with Security Council Resolution 194.

The DFLP has expressed its position toward the overall political process inside the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the PLO Central Council, and through official statements, the latest being the Political Bureau's 20 October statement, which explained why the DFLP delegation refuses to support participation of only Palestinians from the occupied territories in the peace conference. The exclusion of representatives from Jerusalem and the diaspora conflicts with the bases laid down by the PNC and the PLO Central Council.

The DFLP's opposition to Palestinian participation in the conference in accordance with the proposed U.S. formula proceeds from the DFLP's realization of the great damage that would be inflicted on the Palestinian national cause if this formula is accepted. The U.S. formula harms the unity of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, and conflicts with the basic rights of the Palestinian people, including the rights to repatriation, self-determination, and national independence. [passage omitted]

[Signed] Central Information.

PNC's Subayh Interviewed on Peace Conference

PM23l0162791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Oct 91 p 7

[Interview with Muhammad Subayh, Palestine National Council secretary, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Husayn] The peace conference's opening session is due to be held in a matter of hours [as published]. What if Israel declared at that session that it would not withdraw from the occupied territories? Would the Palestinian delegation withdraw from the negotiations?

[Subayh] The Palestinian delegation will not withdraw, whatever Israel says. Each side is entitled to say what it likes at the negotiating table, particularly as the conference is under international auspices and responsibility. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will begin, for the first time, four days after the opening session, according to U.S. Secretary of State Baker. What if the Israeli delegation provokes the Palestinian delegation? What would your position be then?

[Subayh] The Palestinian negotiators cannot be provoked. We know very well that Israel will make constant provocations to torpedo the conference, but we will not give it that chance. We will let Israel say what it likes. What is important to us is how the United States understands international legitimacy. So, if the peace conference proceeds in accordance with the concept of legitimacy, then we will deal with it most seriously and positively. If the peace process deviates from the UN resolutions and Palestinian rights, however, the Palestinian negotiators will be entitled to go back to the Central Council, which will remain in session to make the necessary decisions.

We understand and we have been led to believe by various parties that international legitimacy will be respected at all stages of the peace conference. So we say let Shamir say what he likes, particularly as we expect the Israeli Government to fall in the near future and a new cabinet to be formed. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What will be the Palestinian demands at the first transitional stage?

[Subayh] 1. Withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.
2. A halt to the building of settlements.
3. Protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.
4. Jerusalem is Arab and not negotiable.
5. Comprehensive and just peace guaranteeing security and stability for all. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] Will the autonomy issue be raised?

[Subayh] We will not talk about autonomy. We will talk about a transitional period that would lead to self-determination resulting in an independent Palestinian state or a confederation with Jordan. During that transitional period we will request protection from the United States and the Soviet Union or from the United Nations, or from any forces guaranteed by the two chairman of the peace conference, to maintain security in the occupied territories. After that period, it will be the Palestinian people's right to determine their own fate. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What about the U.S. letter of guarantees and assurances which the PLO has asked for on many occasions?

[Subayh] The U.S. Administration did not provide guarantees for anyone. All we got from it was some interpretations related to Resolution 242. The United States understands it to mean withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] When will the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue be resumed?

[Subayh] So far we have not received any U.S. promises in this connection. We call for the resumption of that dialogue on the same basis as the recent resumption of the Soviet-Israeli dialogue, although we do believe that there is currently a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue at the highest level between Baker and the Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] How much agreement or disagreement is there between Egypt and the PLO, particularly after the PLO's decision to participate in the peace conference?

[Subayh] There is no disagreement between Egypt and the PLO. Suffice it to say that there were 24 joint meetings and Palestinian visits to Egypt in 1991, during which agreement was reached on everything. The visit of Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] is in the context of ensuring continuation of the Egyptian-Palestinian dialogue and rapprochement. We will be seeking to benefit from Egypt's experience in peace negotiations.

'Arafat Visits Strengthen Coordination on Summit

LD2310225191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: Joint Arab coordination is a necessary mission which must be seriously achieved before the peace conference in Madrid on 30 October. The visit by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], brother president, leader, and head of the state of Palestine, to Damascus and his important meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad, then his trip yesterday to Jordan and his meeting with King Husayn, then his immediate trip to Cairo and his meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak this morning were very prominent links in the chain of this assumed coordination. The aim of all this is to reach the summit of the frontline states as soon as possible on the basis of a clear political program all whose points are dedicated for gathering around the united Arab resolution on the bilateral negotiations which will take place around the conference table. If the prior U.S. letters or memorandums of understanding have separated it, as they say, from any advance or retreat achieved by this side or that within the context of this aforementioned bilateral nature of the negotiations, then the Arab sides should better commit themselves in advance to what would secure their active negotiating mobility without any obstacle and without any loophole which could be exploited by the Israeli side for its benefit against any specific Arab side at any difficult central negotiating point.

Abu-'Ammar, the brother president and leader, has explicitly stressed the extreme importance of the desired Arab summit. He said yesterday that Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine have agreed on the proposed coordinating stand. The date of that summit, however, has not been determined yet. Therefore, it is very important to accelerate the steps toward determining that date. The Arab capitals have no more than nine days before the meeting in Madrid. It seems that the enthusiasm through which Palestinian diplomacy moves to achieve the five-sided Arab summit within, for instance, the coming two days has not yet been met with similar and parallel enthusiasm in those capitals. Perhaps the rigid Israeli stand, which is being continuously proclaimed everyday by Yitzhaq Shamir and his various ministers and which rejects the demand to stop Israeli settlement in the occupied territories after the opening of the conference, provides the most important reason for Cairo, Damascus, Beirut, and Amman to hasten their conformity with the actual Palestinian stand to confront this Israeli rigidity with a united, strong, and solid Arab strategy.

Hamas Leader Assails Madrid Conference

LD2310191791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Mr. (Ibrahim Qusheh), a member of the Palestine Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, who participated in the Tehran international conference for the support of the Islamic revolution of Palestine, condemned the Madrid conference in an interview today with foreign and domestic correspondents. He said: We name that conference the conference for settlement [tasfiyeh] of Middle East issues. The Hamas stance regarding that conference still follows Iran's stance, and the world arrogance must realize that the Palestine nation will not relinquish its soil.

Continuing the interview, he referred to the fact that the participants in the Madrid conference are not the real representatives of the innocent nation of Palestine, saying: Certain Arab states which participate in the Madrid conference will gain nothing. [passage omitted]

The Hamas member continued: The liberation of Palestine cannot be realized except by the return of emigrants from other states and the return of the innocent nation of Palestine to its own sacred homeland.

In answer to a television reporter's question regarding his statement that nothing will be gained by Arab states participating in the Madrid conference, he said: The Arab states' leaders are taking part in the Madrid conference for fear of losing their power because they know that following the Persian Gulf war, the United States has established a presence in the region and if they do not obey U.S. orders, they will be seriously threatened by it.

Madrid Talks 'Real Test of U.S. Intentions'

PM2310105391 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 22 Oct 91 p 11

[Editorial: "Palestinian Opposition to Conference Test for U.S. Credibility"]

[Text] It is natural for statements to be issued on the Palestinian scene inside and outside the occupied territory, opposing the peace conference to be held in Madrid and the PLO's participation in it with a delegation from the inside. The Palestine National Council meetings, then the meetings of the Central Council and the Executive Committee, reflected such differing positions.

This is because Palestinian democracy allows both opinion and counter-opinion and provides the legitimate platforms for that difference so that decisions will in the end serve the Palestinian people's national interests.

Everyone knows that the conditions on the basis of which the peace conference will be convened are Israeli-U.S. conditions. Even Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has acknowledged this reality, and this is not the Palestinians' or the PLO's mistake as much as it is the mistake of the Arab states, which pushed the the Palestinians to such a situation.

The peace conference convenes while the settlement process is continuing in the occupied Arab territories, and not a single Arab state has tried to join the PLO in its position of not attending the conference until settlement has stopped, the Jerusalem issue and its future have been discussed, and Arab sovereignty has been restored to it.

Arab coordination was expected to reach its peak before agreement to attend the conference, and the Arab states concerned were expected to hold a five-way conference to unify their positions in that regard—but that did not happen, and most of the Arab states imposed a boycott on the Palestinian people and the PLO in response to U.S. pressures in that regard. And it will not be strange if pressures escalate to force the Palestinian negotiating delegation to grant other concessions at the negotiating table.

Thus, we see that some Palestinian groups' opposition to the peace conference is a healthy phenomenon which reveals the seriousness of U.S. persistence in imposing Israeli terms on the Arab side and demanding that the Arab side alone must offer concessions. The Palestinian side has made the utmost efforts and displayed all flexibility required for the sake of facilitating the convening of the international conference, out of its awareness of the international changes and U.S. control of the world's destinies and in order to spare the Palestinian people new massacres. A U.S. failure to appreciate these stances would kill off the Palestinian march of moderation and realism, affirming the conviction of the Palestinian groups which reject the peace conference that the U.S. positions are biased and lack seriousness about achieving a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions on international legitimacy and total Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem.

The Madrid peace conference will be the real test of U.S. intentions. And the Bush administration's failure in that test could mean a state of instability in the Arab region—a state that could continue for years and torpedo any hope of real peace there.

Syria, Jordan Said Promising No Separate Deals

TA2201135491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] The Arab-language newspaper AL-ITTIHAD quotes its editor in Tunis as saying PLO leaders will arrive in Madrid before the peace conference convenes. According to the RAKAH [New Communist Party] communist paper, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat received a commitment from Jordan and Syria that they would not reach a separate agreement with Israel and that Palestinian representatives in the joint delegation with Jordan would retain their independence. The newspaper did not explain what its editor, Salim Jubran, was doing in Tunis.

Egypt

Butrus Ghali Previews Middle East Peace Talks

LD1910162191 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1200 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali by reporter Gerard Sebag in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] According to all the experts, the peace process that is just beginning will be a very long one. Listen, for example, to Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister Butrus Ghali's opinion. Our reporter Gerard Sebag has just met him in Cairo. Butrus Ghali was one of the few ministers to accompany al-Sadat to Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Ghali] I especially think this conference will be a success in itself. It will be the starting point of a new peace process, and what we need is a new peace process, a new framework for negotiations. That said, I cannot tell you what the outcome of this conference will be, but I think it will create momentum and dynamism which will strengthen the moderates' position, will weaken the positions of the diehards, of the fundamentalists, be they Palestinian, Israeli, or Arab fundamentalists, and this will allow us to begin something.

[Sebag] We will, therefore, be going to this conference without some problems really being resolved.

[Ghali] One thing I can say is that it will not be a rapid process. It may last for months and months, maybe even years, but we must be ready to accept these long negotiations since the final objective is peace. [end recording]

Prime Minister Comments Upon Return From Kuwait

NC2310232191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and the ministerial delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo from Kuwait this evening ending a three-day visit to Kuwait, during which Dr. Sidqi conveyed a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. He also held talks with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and a number of Kuwaiti ministers and officials on ways to promote bilateral cooperation.

Dr. Sidqi said in an arrival statement that the primary aim of his visit was to confirm Egypt's stance toward Iraq's aggression against Kuwait last year, which supports Kuwait politically, militarily, and economically on all its positions. He described the visit as successful by all measures.

He said: For our part, we stressed the continued cooperation and good ties between the two countries.

He said that several results have emerged, most important of which is the establishment of joint economic ventures. He added that only a few hours before his visit started, the Kuwaiti cabinet endorsed the establishment of an Egyptian-Kuwaiti holding company and agreed to open a commercial center for various Egyptian products in Kuwait under Egypt's direct supervision without mediation by anyone, whether merchants or businessmen.

He said that agreement was reached to set up a navigational line between Egyptian ports on the Red Sea and Kuwaiti ports on the Gulf and that a study will be conducted in the next few days on this issue and on reviewing the current situation between the two countries regarding construction.

Speaking about his meeting with representatives of the Egyptian community in Kuwait, he said all problems facing them were reviewed. He noted that there are some matters which will be resolved in Egypt through legal methods in agreement with the Kuwait Government. He said there are problems connected with compensation for Egyptians who worked in Kuwait and that these problems are being dealt with internationally under United Nations supervision and through the committee formed by the Security Council to follow up on this matter.

Dr. Sidqi said: We are following up on these problems with the committee. We have sent them our estimates which [word indistinct] whenever something new is added to them.

'Arafat Concludes Visit, Departs for Paris

NC2210113391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Paris this morning following his two-day visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak and met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The Palestinian president was seen off at the airport by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister.

Libya

Jallud: Madrid Peace Conference 'Shameful'

LD2310213691 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1632 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Speech by Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, Revolution Command Council member, at celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of the battle of al-Marqab; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] O free brothers, the basic people's conferences all over the Jamahiriyah have decided to mark the 80th anniversary of the jihad battles. When the nation is afflicted with weakness and humiliation, when it is

subjected to a crusade, it finds sustenance, inspiration, and strength in its jihad and struggle. When we mark jihad battles, in particular in this year when the Arab nation is being subjected to a crusade against its existence and its pan-Arab cause; when capitulation is imposed on Palestine; when the Arab Gulf is occupied by America, Britain and France; when Iraq is destroyed; when the will is to spread Camp David, the Libyan Arab people, while announcing its rejection of capitulation, finds in its glorious history, finds in its heroic battles, the best sustenance and strength. [passage omitted]

In these bad times when surrender is being imposed on the Arab nation; in these times when pan-Arab existence is being threatened, and when the Arab nation is being subjected to a hateful Western crusade which required the occupation of the Arab Gulf, the destruction of Iraq and expropriation of its sovereignty, will and resources; and which was preceeded by the ominous Camp David, there is a will to impose capitulation on the Arab nation from its ocean to its Gulf, and to liquidate the pan-Arab cause, the cause that forms the conscience of every Arab from the ocean to the Gulf: Palestine. They want us to give up our homes, our streets, land and our honor.

But brothers, despite the bad international situation, the fall of the socialist bloc and the collapse of the Soviet Union, despite the collapse of the Arab position which began with the ominous Camp David and the crusade, hateful of the Arab nation, in the shape of the so-called Gulf war, which ended with the occupation of the Gulf,—after the Arab Gulf was occupied politically, economically and culturally, after the destruction of Iraq and the expropriation of its will—the Arab nation is being subjected, day and night, to naked humiliation and oppression.

Brothers, we wake up to insults, oppression and injustice and go to sleep with insults, oppression and injustice. The entire nation has surrendered: rulers, opposition, trade unions, federations, associations, youth, and the masses. They have all fallen silent, and regrettably the Arab masses now cling to life at any cost. Life under the feet of Americans, Englishmen and crusaders. Life under the despicable boots of Zionists. Where is honor and dignity? [passage omitted]

For forty years they told us we will liberate Palestine and that we are forced to have dictatorships in order to mobilize the resources, and that we are forced to allocate all funds to the Army in order to build it for the liberation of Palestine. Why did the Arab masses sacrifice their money and resources for forty years only to be told in the end: To hell with it, and foresake our cause? The Arab nation is not racing to reach Madrid, shameful Madrid. [passage omitted] Brothers, we have no choice. There are red lines. We have no room to maneuver in relation to pan-Arab causes. At least history will record some day that the free Libyan people said no and refused to go along this show, this conspiracy, this act of treason. [passage omitted]

Brothers, our stand entails responsibilities, because it will expose us to dangers and plotting. For the sake of the sacred cause of our nation, we must accept the challenges and plotting. [passage omitted]

Finally, I tell you in brief, we shall not seek battle with anyone. We shall not go in search of evil. We shall not seek battles with America or others. But let them respect our choices and stances. We shall not seek battle with anyone, not with America or anyone else. We shall not be arrogant. But if we are forced to fight, we shall know how to fight, because we are now freemen, have arms, cadres and officers who are able to lead the popular masses. [passage omitted] The free Libyan people has to decide at the people's basic conferences whether it wants this revolutionary attitude to be that of every Libyan in every city, village, oasis and branch. This is up to the Libyan people. It must be clear. If the Libyan people accepts this, it must be ready to embody it with blood, sweat, work, and toil. Forward—the revolutionary struggle continues.

Sudan

'Fierce Fighting' Between 'Rebel Factions' Noted

EA1310175491 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] Regarding news of the rebellion, the AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH newspaper carried a report that says: Sources have told AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH that ferocious battles are now going on between the two rebels factions inside the camps and near the towns of Nasir and Malakal. The reports say that fierce fighting was going on between the Dinka and the Nuer near Bor, after which the Dinka withdrew to Bor.

The Nuer tribe also attacked the Dinka near (?Jokau) and (?Meret). The reports also say, noting the sharp differences between the rebel John Garang and the dissenting rebel Lam Akol, that fierce battles and ferocious fighting continue between their supporters. These battles are taking place in (?al-Attar) and (?Gabadet). Artillery fire and heavy and light weapons were heard near Fangak [southwest of Malakal].

Meanwhile, large numbers of refugees affected by these battles have arrived in Malakal and have been well received by the government there.

Kuwait

Communique With Egypt on Conference, Iraq

NC2310193091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1823 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Oct (MENA)—Egypt and Kuwait have expressed their support and backing for holding a peace conference in Madrid on 30 October.

They emphasized the importance of reaching a comprehensive, just, and durable solution to the Middle East problem and of the Palestinian people's recovery of all their legitimate rights in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace. They also stressed their support for the Palestinian people.

This came in a joint communique released this evening at the end of Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's visit to Kuwait.

The communique said that during their talks, the Egyptian and Kuwaiti sides reviewed the destructive marks of the oppressive Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its consequent grave results, which cast their dark shadows over the joint Arab action march. This, the communique added, requires constructive consultation to establish the bases for serious Arab action within the context of the Arab League. The two sides emphasized the inevitability of adhering to the full and scrupulous implementation of all Security Council resolutions relevant to the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

They noted that the Iraqi people's suffering is a result of the intransigence of their regime and its erroneous policy of refusing to comply with the international legitimacy's resolutions.

The two sides stressed the importance of pursuing international and regional efforts through human rights organizations to bring about the immediate and full release of all Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees in Iraq, and expressed their grave concern over the continuation of this plight because it is a human tragedy.

The joint communique mentioned that an atmosphere of amity, brotherhood and understanding prevailed during the Kuwaiti-Egyptian talks, during which the sides concurred on Arab, regional, and international situations.

The two sides expressed full satisfaction with the progress of bilateral relations and their continued development in all spheres in implementation of the directives of His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and His Excellency President Muhmmad Husni Mubarak.

The two sides asserted their resolve to tackle all issues that might obstruct the development and progression of these relations and to implement the necessary measures through the authorities concerned in the two countries to accomplish this goal.

The communique said it was agreed to set up a Kuwaiti national investment company—a holding company.

The two sides emphasized the importance of continued consultation and the exchange of visits by the two countries' leaders at various levels.

Dr. Sidqi addressed an invitation to His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al- 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, to visit Egypt. His highness accepted the invitation for the visit, the date of which will be set later.

Dr. Sidqi began his visit to Kuwait last Monday at the head of a large ministerial delegation, during which he conveyed a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al- Sabah. He also held talks with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and a number of Kuwaiti officials.

Council Views Security, Deals With Explosives

LD2310225991 London KUNA in Arabic 1133 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Oct (KUNA)—National Council Chairman 'Abd- al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id chaired a regular Council meeting this morning. The Council commenced its work by ratifying the minutes of the previous session and discussing the incoming papers and messages. A group of deputies criticized the government's complacency and negligence in clearing al-Jahra' area of amunitions and explosives, a matter which led to several accidents. The interior minister replied, saying that "the brutal Iraqi invasion forces left in al-Jahra' area alone approximately 7,000 tons of explosives of which the Army was able to clear 5,000 tons within three months. Work to clear the area of the rest of the weapons and remnants continues." The minister commented on the explosion incidents there, saying: "These incidents were the result of deliberate or undeliberate play. Security authorities are investigating these incidents and forbid citizens from approaching these areas. The houses were not damaged." Deputy 'Abd-al-Karim al-Juhaydali said that the number of the victims of the explosion incidents after liberation has exceeded the number of the victims of the Iraqi aggression during seven months of occupation. The Council moved to discussing the incoming messages and complaints. After that, the Council reviewed the items on its agenda which included a collection of queries and replies to them, then the chairman adjourned the session.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Addresses Ministers on Madrid Summit

LD2310224191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1755 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 21 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy

mosques, chaired a Council of Ministers meeting this afternoon at Jeddah's Al-Salam Palace. His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir told SPA after the meeting that at the beginning of today's meeting the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Council of Ministers had reviewed the overall situation in the Arab and international arenas and had made a detailed and meticulous analysis of the current issues and the efforts deployed by Arab leaderships and the U.S. Government for holding the 30 October Madrid peace conference. King Fahd also explained to the Council the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position on all events and on his contacts—may God protect him—for the sake of the Palestinian cause and for the sake of finding a just and comprehensive solution to this cause in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

Minister Al-Sha'ir said: In this regard, the Council of Ministers expressed its satisfaction over and support for the outcome of the efforts aimed at ending the current conflict in the Middle East region through the holding of the expected peace conference on time and at the agreed venue so the states of this region would be able to enjoy security and stability amid a permanent peace and successful stability. The Council expressed its hope for the success of the goals aspired for by the Palestinian people in gaining its legitimate rights, longed for by both Arab and Islamic nations. [passage omitted]

King Fahd Receives Pakistani Prime Minister

LD2410082591 Riyadh SPA in English 1245 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Jiddah, Oct 23.—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz received at al-Salam Palace in Jiddah on Tuesday night Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by Ibrahim al-Ahqari, special advisor of King Fahd and Pakistan's Ambassador to the Kingdom (Mohammad Waliulla Khan Khaishagi). Sharif and his accompanying delegation arrived earlier Tuesday in Jiddah. Sharif was received at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Saud Bin-'Abd-al-Mohsen, vice governor of Makkah region and Abdullah Omer Naseef, secretary general of the Muslim World League.

Iranian Deputy Minister Begins Visit, Talks

LD2410084891 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1615 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Mr. Mottaki, Iran's deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs, who is currently in Saudi Arabia, held the first round of dialogues with Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri on Tuesday. Ways of expanding bilateral cooperation at international gatherings were debated during the session.

Delivers Rafsanjani Message

LD2310190891 Tehran IRNA in English 1047 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 23, IRNA—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Mottaki conveyed President Rafsanjani's verbal message to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in Riyadh Tuesday. Mottaki also elaborated on the outlooks of Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani concerning regional and international events, including the latter's emphasis on the "heavy responsibility" of Islamic states in solving the basic issues of the Islamic world. King Fahd in reply expressed hope that his expected meeting with Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani at the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) summit in Senegal in December would prepare the grounds for the expansion of cooperation between the "two major regional states." He said exchange of ambassadors in the near future as well as holding of the joint economic commission of the two countries are necessary steps towards expansion of bilateral ties. Mottaki is currently visiting Saudi Arabia at the head of a delegation.

Saddam Husayn Remarks at Military Ceremony

JN2310112591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Oct (INA)—His excellency the president has greeted several veteran commanders who demonstrated heroism in al-Qadisiyah [the war with Iran] and remained heroes in the Mother of Battles. The leader president thanked and blessed God because principles have triumphed.

The president added: By targeting the material structure, the enemies had thought that they could undermine the newly emergent values in people's hearts and minds.

The president said that every stage has its own characteristics and that the distinguished will of men is the factor that creates distinguished characteristics.

He added: Every medal and order presented today to the fighters has a story related to all the meanings of lofty history and pure blood. It is illogical that all this depth, in addition to the depth of a country that has six thousand years of civilization, could be destroyed in days, months, or years, as some had deluded themselves into believing.

His excellency made the remarks when he presented the al-Rafidayn orders, the Mother of Battles orders and swords, and valor medals, to a number of commanders in appreciation of their heroic role, loyalty, bravery, and dedication. The medals are also given in appreciation of the commanders' service of the Arab nation and our homeland, Iraq, in the face of the imperialist-Zionist aggression at the great historic confrontation of the Mother of Battles and in defeating the chapter of treason and treachery engineered by anti-Arabist enemies, other enemies, as well as treasonous hirelings and agents.

The president said that some presidents had talked about terrorizing Iraqi will. This shows us the degree of malice harbored by the people who lack values toward people who embrace lofty ones. Some of those people, who actually bear Arab nationality, based their views not only on common analyses, but also on their spiteful wishes—because they lack all the noble meanings of honor and manliness as a result of their vile conduct and weak will.

Concluding his speech, his excellency the president praised every glorious Iraqi woman who made efforts in this epic commensurate with the new mission to preserve the loftiness and honor of Iraq. His excellency the president also praised every Iraqi child who preserved his genuine virtues despite the bombs of the enemies.

The ceremony was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Court; Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan; Staff Lieutenant General Iyad Futayyih Khalifah, the Army chief of staff; and the staff lieutenant general assistant Army chief of staff.

Starting off his speech to the honored military commanders, President Saddam Husayn said that the veteran, according to the dictionary, is one who lives throughout two ages. Now we have a group of men, a group of veterans of a special kind.
They are heroes of the al-Qadisiyah, and heroes of the Mother of Battles.
God bless the men.
God bless the men of the al-Qadisiyah.
God bless the men of the Mother of Battles.
Praise be to God that the principles remained the same.

A short time ago, I was talking with one of your colleague commanders. I told him that the wicked forces did not target the material structure. I said the same thing to many sincere Iraqis with whom I met and talked.

They were targeting the new values. But they thought that if they destroyed the material structure, they would, consequently, ruin the new values in our hearts and minds. They forgot that this generation sufficiently recalls how Iraq was before they became officers in the Iraqi Army, for instance, or before this fellow or that became a university professor. All the people recall the picture of old Iraq. I am referring to the pre-revolution Iraq, the pre-upsurge Iraq, not the ancient Iraq.

They sufficiently remember how they, their families, and their tribes lived; and how their villages and cities used to be. They compare that to the current situation, and know the causes of the change.

His excellency added: Some of those present also said that they did not know the meanings of the medals of valor although they were Army officers before al-Qadisiyah, and that they knew these meanings only during al-Qadisiyah. During the so-called north movements, [the Kurdish rebellion, before the Iraq-Iran war], medals of valor were being sent by mail to those who deserved them. Perhaps this leader heard this from those who served in the Army before him.

I commented on this and said that each phase has its characteristics and that the distinguished will of men, not only the law of nature, brings about distinguished characteristics.

His excellency said: Every stage through which this nation passes has its men or its characteristics in light of what the men in these stages believe in. Therefore, during the period when the awards used to be sent by post the officials in charge at the time perhaps had not the required awareness of how to shape the new individual and the new values, or were themselves not that much convinced of the value behind granting awards as were the men of Al- Qadisiyah during the Mother of Battles.

Perhaps, the official used to be embarrassed when awarding one of the men with a medal of valor because most probably, he himself had not been courageous or does not believe in the value of the award.

His excellency went on to say: I would like to mention here what one of the brother commanders had drawn attention to that the Al-Rafidayn Medal used to be granted on the basis of state positions and military ranks. We remedied this state of affairs. Perhaps, you have noticed how medals used to be bestowed. You, yourselves have bestowed medals. There were colors and lines whose meaning no one knew unless someone asked what does this color or that line mean? Then, they would reply by saying that this medal is for valor and this one is for something else. Any officer could purchase these medals and wear it. Was this not so, Sultan?

The president was addressing Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim, deputy chief of staff.

The president added: Why did this use to happen? Because the values expressed by the awarding decree [words inistinct] in the Al-Rafidayn Order and the Medals of Valor.

As for now, every order and medal has its own story. When someone asks you about these medals and orders you can tell him that this order or medal is to honor this or that battle east of the Karun river, another is for a battle in Dezful, and a third for battles in east of Al-Basrah, and that these medals and orders are for the battles of liberation in (?Majnun), and these are for battles for the liberation of this or that place. Then, every medal and order has a story.

His excellency affirmed that these stories are not imaginary ones but real stories, which are deeply rooted in history and baptized in pure blood.

His excellency said: Can this new depth, which should be added to the depth of a country that has six thousand years of civilization, disappear? Can all this national, pan-Arab, and human legacy in our country be destroyed within months, years, or days as those enemies had deluded themsleves into believing?

Can all these values disappear just because they had imposed an extraordinary burden on the Iraqis shoulders and on their will?

His excellency added: If some people are unfamiliar with the will of the Iraqi Armed Forces and the will of the Iraqi nation, then they should realize the fact that every badge pinned on the breasts of men in the past was bought from an army store. Any lieutenant who graduates from a military college used to get such a badge. Today, however, badges are given to those who experience the heat, blood, and fierceness of battle and fall valiant martyrs or lead an honorable life. If this is not the case, then you can correct this, citing historical reasons.

Therefore, you can see the new [word indistinct] and depth in the history of Iraq. If we consider, for example, one area regarding the arena of the conflict and the arena of the will in the [word indistinct] way and the opposition of hostile forces to this will, we will find all [word indistinct] change. The badges of valor and reward have been changed from meaningless colors and signs to colors and signs linked to a deep, honorable history. All nations on earth wish today their history would record what the history of Iraq has recorded. Exactly as the Arab nation wishes its history would record part of your history and that of other nations.

His excellency added: How can the enemies, then, erase all this depth simply by adding another burden on the will of Iraq—a burden that seems to those looking from afar unbearable and bound to lead the Iraqis to surrender.

You certainly heard how some leaders used to say that Iraq will succumb within days. They have always done injustice to their humanity, if they have any left. So, do you see the malice harbored by those who lack values toward those who have lofty values. Some of those leaders, who even bear Arab nationality, had based their views on their malicious wishes that the Iraqi people would surrender and succumb in a matter of days, because those people lack all noble values and concepts of honor enjoyed by men and nations. They lack these values because of their vile conduct and weak will.

Thank God who enabled us to record for the Iraqis something in which they take pride, not only for this stage but also for future generations.

His excellency went on to say: Thanks be to God that He enabled our Armed Forces and great people to add this deep dimension to their glorious history and to the glorious history of the Arab nation.

May God salute the men of the Armed Forces, may God salute every decent man. May God salute every woman that showed patience during this epic, commensurate with the new task of Iraq remaining lofty and maintaining the great principles and our dear honor at their proper level.

May God salute every child who has remained a [word indistinct] son and a true potential for virtue, despite the fact that he was terrified by the enemies' bombs and the crimes of treacherous criminals.

May God salute you and all those who espouse all these great meanings when they contemplate their influence on minds and hearts, and in history and other areas, whether on the level of the Arab nation or on a national Iraqi level. God is great and may losers be accursed.

After concluding his valuable speech, his excellency the president addressed himself to the distinguished audience saying: We would like to hear from the men in case any of you have anything to say.

Major General Qays 'Abd-al-Razzaq said that he met with a top foreign military officer in a foreign country, who had wanted to meet with an Iraqi Army officer, and he singled out the Republican Guard and noted that he would have been honored if he had met with an Iraqi Army officer. He then expressed his admiration for the resilience of the Iraqis under heavy bombardment and

their capacity for steadfastness and confrontation. He was happy and proud to have visited Iraq. Talking about democracy in his country, he said it was completely lacking, and that it was mere slogans and that they were totally forbidden from saying any word with [word indistinct].

His Excellency the president commented: You will see that when, God willing, you meet with such people, how ashamed they will feel, because, in any case, on the whole, the military, even if it assumes the character of a particular country and stage, there is always a universal character in the military and there are general worldwide laws in the military, and there is a common military language. Therefore, you can rest assured that the military who fought against you, including the Americans, must be ashamed of themselves and at the same time must admire you as a people and as an armed force.

His excellency added: Some of them may know these meanings. Out of fear, some may not say what we are saying. But, in general, this is the picture held by the French, American, English, and Italian military men. It is also the picture for the Arab military men in Saudi Arabia, in Egypt, in Syria, and in Kuwait. When I make such assertions, I am not basing my statements upon the general principles which I know to be true, but rather on confirmed information. There are many stories about the prisoners of war which all fall in the same direction, and Lieutenant General Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz may remember many of them.

His excellency said: A military commander, or a senior Armed Forces officer in one of the states, which, according to the West's standards, are called democratic, can say that democracy in his country is merely slogans. But, no one could say a word in Iraq's favor. This means that falsehood and injustice must be exposed. A universal bridge must extend between you and other people around the earth on the basis of the meanings that you embodied when you took that honorable stand against aggression, injustice, and tyranny. Then, an interaction among the great things will take place and many faces and meanings will change, God willing. Now let us hear what Sabir wants to say.

Staff Lt. Gen. Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz then spoke. The president thanked him and allowed Staff Major General Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Sattar to speak. The president commented on what Staff Maj. Gen. Ibrahim 'Abd-Sattar mentioned by saying: Many pillars and stakes emerged in al-Basrah, and also in other parts of Iraq. The very same pillars and stakes all raised the banner of jihad, steadfastness, and confrontation, and asserted the same conditions which our master, messenger, prophet, and forefather Muhammad, God's peace and blessings be upon him, had asserted.

We truly believe in the slogans we raise. We also truly believe in the principles we advocate. We are ready for martyrdom as a duty for leaders, and not as a duty for the adventurers, who do not have any picture for the future. We think about the details of the future all the time.

All these situations are lessons, though coupled with difficult circumstances, which I am going to explain to you and which I explained to the comrades before I saw any one of you. Witnesses to this are sitting on my left and rights sides. I also gave an analysis that you might have received and read. I also provided details of the analysis on another occasion at the General Command. Before I asked the comrades about it, I explained to them during the first meeting all the negative phenomena and why they occurred. You have the right to experience pain, but to turn the pain into a profound lesson so that the faithful can consider it and adhere to it, we have to remember the loftiest banner, which we have never and will never reach and which will remain as an example to be followed and a source of inspiration; namely, the banner of the first Muslims.

I have introduced this subject to allow you to continue your conversation, not mine.

Commenting on what was said by Staff Maj. Gen. Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Sattar Ahmad on the importance of men's modesty in preserving courage, the president said:

In such battles, there must be modesty and faith, as he who has no modesty has no faith and will forget his faith. There was modesty, and that meant summoning the background in all its depth, the roots in all their meanings, faith in all its honor, and courage in all its characteristics. If these matters are not recalled, the situation will be difficult.

The president then said: I want to ask all the comrades-in-arms here and everywhere the following question:

Were you surprised by the enemy's behavior, both on the operational and tactical levels, that is, were your surprised by anything that the General Command had not already alerted you to regarding its possibility?

After his excellency the president listened to the answers of some of the honored military commanders, he said:

Talking to fighters is history, as we have said. It is history not only for Iraq, but also for the nation and it has human lessons for all mankind.

Talking to fighters and listening to them implies a valuable human joy, but you and us always have work to do. [sentence as received]

May God protect you, all the fighters, and your people and nation. Praise be to God for your safety.

Talabani Says Kurdish-Saddam Talks 'Deadlocked'

NC2310163191 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said that there has been no progress toward an agreement between the Kurds and the criminal regime.

Our news sources abroad said that Talabani's remarks were made during a speech to a UK Labor Party meeting.

In a recent press interview, Talabani said the talks with the 'Aflaqites have failed and that the negotiations have been completely deadlocked, adding that the self-rule proposals were nothing more than a gimmick.

Talabani also said the 'Aflaqite henchmen are pressuring the Kurds to implement the 'Aflaqite Arabization plans. Talabani called for international support to end criminal Saddam's dictatorship, which is not just a menace to our people, but to the region and the entire world.

U-2 'Espionage' Protested to Arab League

JN2410081791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Iraq has filed a strong protest with the Arab League over the continued and serious violation of its sovereignty, lands, and airspace by the infamous American U-2 spy plane under the pretext of conducting aerial surveys for the UN special committee. In a memorandum submitted today by Iraq's permanent Arab League representative to the assistant secretary general, Iraq informed the Arab League that the American plane carried out acts of espionage against Iraq for the 11th time thanks to facilities provided by the regime of an Arab country, the Saudi regime.

The memorandum explained that at 1000 on Monday, the plane marked as "U.N.T.O.1." entered Iraqi airspace from Saudi airspace. It flew over Iraqi territory for three and a half hours before leaving at 1331 toward Saudi Arabia. The memorandum considers this 11th violation as an exposed act of espionage under the cover of a UN special committee. Once again, this stresses that the mission of this plane is far from the jurisdiction of this committee.

The memorandum said that while the Iraqi Government strongly protests and denounces this continued violation, it cannot but once again denounce turning Saudi territory and airspace into a base for the repeated aggression against Iraq. This continued violation, moreover, proves that Saudi Arabia, by allowing and providing all necessary facilities for carrying out these acts of aggression and espionage, any by insisting on its position and disregard of the Iraqi Government's protests, certainly sets a serious precedence in inter-Arab relations, which will affect other Arab countries, contrary to and in violation of the Arab League Charter.

Oil Minister on Future Plans, Mobile Refineries

JN2310160991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti today announced that a specialized team from the Oil Ministry and other agencies have, for the first time, begun to install mobile refining units in Iraq.

In a press conference he held today, and attended by correspondents from the local newspapers, INA, and radio and television, the oil minister said the building of these units is the fruit of the experience gained by the technical staff during their participation in rebuilding and reconstructing what was damaged by the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq.

He said the Oil Ministry has set an ambitious plan to manufacture other units to maintain the momentum in the manufacturing process in the refineries. These units will be the first of their kind in the Middle East, and will be announced soon by the technical staff working in the oil sector, he said.

The oil minister added that the Oil Ministry continues it efforts to gradually supply liquid gas without ration cards as of December and will increase output. He said citizens will be supplied with four gas cylinders according to the ration cards as of this month.

The minister said the ministry hopes to increase Iraq's output of crude oil to reach 5.5 million barrels a day, a target planned for 1994, to correspond to the huge reserves of oil.

He said the process to develop the giant fields in Iraq is part of the ministry's ambitious plans and will be executed in cooperation with international investment firms, which will be given certain privileges to double Iraq's output of oil to reach the level that preceded the 30-state aggression which amounts to 3.14 million barrels a day.

Shamir Decides To Head Delegation to Madrid

Foreign Ministry 'Shocked'

TA2310192291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Let us open with the dramatic development in relations between the prime minister and the foreign minister: Mr. Shamir has decided to head the Israeli delegation to the peace conference in Madrid himself. He will decide on the composition of the Israeli delegation in the next few days. Mr. Shamir's decision shocked and deeply disappointed the Foreign Ministry, and Minister David Levi decided not to depart for Madrid. Initial reports on the behind- the-scenes activity on the eve of the conference are provided by our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik in the studio:

Although the Madrid peace conference will open only in a week, the drama in Jerusalem is already at its height. The prime minister this evening decided to represent Israel in the Madrid peace conference personally even though the official invitation was extended only to foreign ministers, even though as far as is known his counterparts Husayn and Mubarak will not be coming, and even though as late as this morning Ministers Baker and Pankin repeated that the level intended for the conference will be that of foreign ministers.

Mr. Shamir evidently thinks that at an event of such unprecedented importance in terms of information and media exposure he, his men, and the political line he represents should appeal to world public opinion directly. An announcement to this effect was submitted this evening to the United States.

Shamir, Levi, and Arens conferred this morning to decide on the composition of the Israeli delegation but failed to reach a decision. Now we know why.

I have learned that the prime minister decided that his men would head the main committees in the direct negotiations and has also decided to include in the delegation a representative of the Judaea and Samaria settlers, a representative of the rightist parties, Knesset Member Beni Begin, and perhaps also 'Uzi Landau. Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will also be included and will be in charge of information, as will Dr. Yosi Olmert [head of the Government Press Office], a Shamir associate.

Shamir himself will decide in the next few days on the exact composition of the Israeli delegation without consulting with his fellow ministers. All this is apparently in reaction to what he seems to perceive as the growing stature of the PLO in the conference behind the Palestinian veil.

The import of all these resolutions, however, is that the Foreign Ministry, which has thus far been seen as responsible for the delegation, will be totally neutralized. As we said before, the news shocked the ministry, and Foreign Minister David Levi, who shut himself in his office for consultations in the last few hours, will soon announce—in fact he has already announced—that he will not leave for Madrid. Obviously this is a rift, a real crisis in confidence in Israel's topmost political echelon. We will be able to hear more about the ramifications of all this in the next few days.

Right-Wing Ministers 'Thrilled'

TA2310200991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1935 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi tonight officially informed the prime minister that he does not believe there is any need for him to go to Madrid since Mr. Shamir, as has already been reported, has decided to lead the Israeli delegation and even to make a speech. Levi reconstructed tonight with Shamir their meeting this morning when he was informed that the Foreign Ministry would not lead any of the committees conducting peace negotiations. It was officially learned that Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein would be leading the team facing Jordan and the Palestinians; that Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, would head the team facing the Syrians; and that facing the Lebanese would be a Defense Ministry representative, perhaps Uri Lubrani.

The foreign minister announced that Shamir's action was not proper and that such a move would completely neutralize his ministry, especially since he learned that the Foreign Ministry's contribution to the Israeli delegation to the opening of the talks would be cut. Levi suggested to Shamir that his ministry head the teams facing the Syrians and Jordanians, and it was agreed that the team of ministers meet again today, but at about 2000 the prime minister telephoned the foreign minister and informed him of his decision. Levi wished the prime minister success, but we must reiterate that there is no doubt that he views what happened tonight as an expression of no confidence in him personally and a takeover by extremists of the Israeli line in the conference in the face of the entire world.

Right-wing ministers were thrilled this evening. They said Shamir has adopted their line, especially since only this morning Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi presented demands in that spirit. Among Likud ministers there is general confusion about what is taking place, although most support Shamir. Among other ministers, such as representatives of the religious and ultra-Orthodox parties, there is an initial reaction of surprise and disappointment with what one said the prime minister is doing to his foreign minister.

Shamir Aide: List 'Merely Speculative'

TA2310210891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that he has not yet decided on the composition of the Israeli delegation for the Madrid conference. Ehud Gol, his media adviser, told our correspondent Arye Golan this evening that the prime minister will decide on that in the next few days. The names mentioned this evening are therefore merely speculative.

Levi Not To Resign 'At This Stage'

TA2310205791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry is in deep shock following Shamir's announcement that he plans to head the Israeli delegation to the Madrid talks and make the opening address on Israel's behalf. Uri Oren, the foreign minister's media adviser, charged the Prime Minister's Office with neutralizing the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

At this stage, the foreign minister does not plan to resign.

Uri Segal, our correspondent in the territories, has reactions from the territories:

We have two reactions: One is by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation, who said he is convinced that the Israeli delegation under Shamir will adopt a more extremist stand but added that if the prime minister himself participates, that indirectly upgrades the importance of the conference.

Faysal al-Husayni, who heads the advisory council, said he does not intervene in Israel's domestic affairs but expressed the hope that Shamir will go to the conference out of a desire to achieve real peace.

Politicians, Factions React

TA2310205291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] We are gathering reactions to tonight's bombshell: Mr. Shamir decided to head the delegation to the talks, David Levi announced he was not going to Madrid.

The Shinuy Knesset faction said that there was a clear impression from the prime minister's action that Shamir does not intend to conduct real negotiations but to break up the conference with a big bang. Shinuy warned that Israel will be punished harshly and justifiably if it appears to the United States and the entire world that Shamir and the Israeli Government are converting the peace process into a farce.

Shim'on Peres: I heard with regret and disappointment that narrow political considerations have won over national considerations. A delegation was composed that will represent the minority instead of one representing the majority of the people in Israel, who want peace.

Our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahimc'ir gives us additional reactions to Shamir's decision. Knesset Member Re'uven Rivlin, who is close to Mr. Levi, said he heard the report with shock and that the act is unforgivable. Mr. Rivlin said Minister Levi, who jointly with Mr. Shamir is leading all the moves with courage and determination, is now in a situation where he has been pushed aside for political reasons.

Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi, on the other hand, strengthened Mr. Shamir's hand and said he will lead the best delegation for Israel during this fateful era. Mr. Ze'evi said that by making the decision, Mr. Shamir backed his recommendations.

MK 'Uzi Bar'am said that the delegation set up by Mr. Shamir is entirely composed of those who reject peace.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 2000 GMT on 23 October reports that "the HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] faction announced that it would present a no-confidence motion in the government over Mr. Shamir's decision to go to Madrid at the head of a team which would torpedo the conference and the chance for peace. Hayim Ramon, chairman of the Labor Party faction, said that Shamir's move was an expression of total no-confidence in David Levi; the foreign minister should not permit himself to be used as a moderate mask on the extremist faces of Shamir and his men, and should resign from his post." The report adds that "MK's Yosi Sarid and Ya'ir Tzaban support the prime minister's decision despite the offense to David Levi. They said that it is preferable for Shamir to take supreme personal responsibility for the peace process and not wait for David Levi around the corner and then later blame him for being too compromising. The Council of Judaea and Samaria Jewish Settlements praised the prime minister for his decision."]

Finance Minister Backs Shamir

TA2410095591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i supports the prime minister's decision to head the Israeli delegation to the Madrid conference. He believes that unexpected developments, such as an announcement that the Palestinian delegation represents the PLO, may take place during the conference. For this reason, it may be necessary to take immediate action, which only the prime minister can decide on. At the same time, Minister Moda'i is sorry that Foreign Minister Levi canceled his trip to the Madrid conference. [passage omitted]

Earlier List of Government Candidates for Madrid

TA2310135291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The candidates for the delegation to the opening session of the peace conference in

Madrid, in addition to the prime minister and the foreign minister, are: from the Defense Ministry—David 'Ivri, Defense Ministry director general; Salay Meridor, the defense minister's political adviser; and Uri Lubrani. From the Foreign Ministry—Eytan Bentzur, assistant director general for North America; Moshe Raviv, assistant director general for information; David Sultan, assistant director general for Middle Eastern affairs. Ambassador Zalman Shoval also asked to be included in the delegation that will participate in the opening session.

The candidates for the Israeli "support team" are, among others: from the Prime Minister's Office—'Azri'el Nevo, the prime minister's military secretary; Ehud Gol, the prime minister's media adviser; and Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau (if Shamir goes). From the Defense Ministry—Brigadier General Yequti'el Mor, assistant to the Army's head of Intelligence Branch for research; and the Army's assistant to the head of the Planning Branch. From the Foreign Ministry—David Afeq, head of the Center for Political Research; and Robbie Sabel, the ministry's legal adviser; as well as Uri Oren and 'Aliza Goren, the minister's aides.

Levi objects to the inclusion of Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in the delegation, but Shamir may force him to accept Netanyahu. It is also possible that the three will decide to include one or two Likud Knesset members in the delegation as well. [passage omitted]

Delegate 'Urayqat Disqualified Due to PLO Link

TA2310211691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, says that the announcement by a member of the Palestinian delegation that the PLO had appointed him conflicts with the understandings we have with the United States. Commenting on the declaration by Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a delegation member, that the PLO had asked him to serve as a representative, Yosi Ben-Aharon said that 'Urayqat will not be able to represent the Palestinians in Madrid.

'Urayqat's Removal Demanded

TA2410094991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Oct 91 p 1

[Pool report]

[Excerpts] The crisis that erupted yesterday around the issue of Israel's representation at the peace conference overshadowed a no less serious crisis regarding the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations. Israel demanded yesterday that the United States remove Sa'ib 'Urayqat from the Palestinian delegation after he clearly announced that he had been appointed by the PLO and that the entire Palestinian delegation is PLO.

A senior source in the prime minister's bureau yesterday made it clear that Israel will under no circumstances agree to sit opposite a delegation that includes 'Urayqat and that the crisis surrounding him threatens the very convening of the peace conference. The source accused Secretary of State Baker of responsibility for the situation, in view of the direct negotiations he has conducted with the PLO for quite a few months now. The source disclosed that in one of Baker's meetings with Faysal al-Husayni, Baker agreed to receive a letter personally signed by Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Israel yesterday expressed additional reservations regarding some of the Palestinian delegation members due to their terrorist past or their affiliation with radical organizations, or because they have another address in Jerusalem. At the same time, authoritative elements clarified that even if they were not accepted by the Americans, these reservations would not lead to an Israeli decision not to participate in the conference. In contrast, 'Urayqat's remarks crossed the "red line" delineating what Israel is prepared to put up with. [passage omitted]

Shamir Aide on Government Delegation to Madrid

TA2413064991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ahime'ir, director of the prime minister's bureau, by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning to you, Yosi Ahime'ir. What disqualifies David Levi from heading the delegation to the Madrid conference?

[Ahime'ir] Nobody has said that. This is a very important, unprecedented occasion, and it is only natural for the prime minister both to head the delegation and take part in the conference.

[Zissowitz] Only natural if the talks were to be conducted at the prime ministerial level; however, the invitations were clearly extended to foreign ministers.

[Ahime'ir] Look, we are talking about a very important event in which Israel will participate alongside four or five Arab delegations, as well as several additional, neutral bodies. The only way to underscore Israel's presence there is to upgrade the level of representation, thus also boosting Israel's public relations. Furthermore, there was no objection to having Israel represented by the prime minister.

[Zissowitz] If there is nothing to disqualify the foreign minister himself, what disqualifies his ministry's personnel? Is there no room in the composition of the delegation for a Foreign Ministry representative at the head of the negotiations table, across from the representatives of the Arab countries?

[Ahime'ir] There is nothing to disqualify the Foreign Ministry either. On the contrary, the ministry's personnel are preparing the talks and taking care of organizational matters. It is to be regretted that you and others use terms which imply that there were considerations which the Prime Minister's Office had against the Foreign Ministry, as it were. There are no such considerations.

[Zissowitz] One cannot help but reach such a conclusion. Israeli teams will be facing the various Arab teams, and we hear that it will be Yosi Ben-Aharon who will be heading the negotiations with Syria and Uri Lubrani from the Defense Ministry who will be leading the negotiations with Lebanon, for example. Is there no room for a Foreign Ministry representative at the head of any delegation?

[Ahime'ir] First, we are discussing Israel's representatives. There is no cake to be shared here. Distribution of duties follows pragmatic considerations. It should be emphasized that so far, neither the prime minister nor anybody from his bureau has spoken about the composition of the Israeli delegations to the opening session and to the bilateral talks.

[Zissowitz] It is accepted practice for the Foreign Ministry to deal with foreign affairs. What can be more natural than having Foreign Ministry personnel heading these delegations and not only preparing for or explaining the conference?

[Ahime'ir] This is an extraordinary occasion in the history of the Middle East, and the Foreign Ministry is a full party in the preparations for and participation in it. Nonetheless, what is more natural than having the prime minister leading Israel's participation in this event? There have been numerous appeals to the prime minister in recent days to head the delegation. These appeals came from various circles, from various serious elements, irrespective of political considerations. The foreign minister was also supposed to participate in the delegation, of course.

[Zissowitz] Did Mr. Shamir explain to his foreign minister yesterday what you are explaining to me now? Did he beseech him not to remain at home but to come to the conference?

[Ahime'ir] He told him they would jointly put the delegation together today. The foreign minister then told the prime minister that if this is the case, he is hesitating about going. This was not the prime minister's intention. His intention was to upgrade the level of representation, to strengthen Israel's status and public relations at the conference, and definitely not to hurt the Foreign Ministry or foreign minister.

[Zissowitz] When the prime minister made his decision, was he afraid this would be the foreign minister's reaction?

[Ahime'ir] No, he was not. He was not afraid that the argument would shift to partisan lines. This is the last thing the prime minister wanted. His considerations were purely pragmatic.

[Zissowitz] In your estimation, is the foreign minister's reaction a partisan, personal one, or does he have professional motives, too?

[Ahime'ir] I do not want to address this question.

[Zissowitz] Will the prime minister not feel embarrassed when he arrives in Madrid at the head of the Israeli delegation and is faced by foreign ministers rather than heads of state, by neither Mubarak nor Husayn?

[Ahime'ir] Let me repeat: Israel constitutes 50 percent of the conflict, but will take up only 10 to 15 percent of the time allotted for speeches at the conference. The prime minister's participation, therefore, will strengthen Israel's status vis-a-vis the Arab and other elements that will be facing Israel. Incidentally, it is worth mentioning that Secretary of State Baker initiated a talk with the prime minister on Tuesday, when the prime minister was in Strasbourg. They discussed a whole host of issues, and the prime minister asked him whether President Mubarak and King Husayn will attend the conference. Baker replied that apparently they will not, but that if Mr. Shamir wants to come, this will not be a problem.

[Zissowitz] In a statement to the media, you announced that all the speculation about the composition of the Israeli delegation is baseless. Can you confirm, though, that not only officials are under discussion but also other people—Gush Emunim representatives, for example?

[Ahime'ir] Let me repeat: Nothing has been said about the composition yet. The occasion in question will resemble a large-scale news conference—namely, an occasion where public relations play a major role; therefore, I can assume that the deputy foreign minister will participate in it. Again, there are no considerations here other than working in the interest of the Israeli cause. I do not think anybody can disqualify such participation. All considerations are pragmatic. Binyamin Netanyahu is a possible candidate, but all the other names that have been mentioned are speculation.

[Zissowitz] Still, will political movements that are outside the government, such as Gush Emunim, have a representative on the delegation?

[Ahime'ir] I cannot say a single word about the composition beyond the name I have just mentioned. Let us wait for Shamir's decision on the composition.

[Zissowitz] Last question: Will David Levi fill in for Prime Minister Shamir while the latter is in Madrid?

[Ahime'ir] When the prime minister left for Strasbourg, Mr. David Levi, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was acting prime minister indeed. We still hope that Mr. Levi will participate in the delegation.

[Zissowitz] Thank you, Yosi Ahime'ir.

Pankin Cited on Foreign Minister-Level Talks

TA2310133691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Secretary Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin have decided that foreign ministers and not heads of government would participate in the Madrid conference, except for Presidents Bush and Gorbachev, who would act as cosponsors. Foreign Minister Pankin told this to our Paris correspondent Gid'on Kouts. The two ministers conferred in Paris today and also agreed that the Spanish monarch would give the opening address at the conference and would then be followed by speeches by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev. Before the meeting with Pankin, Baker said that only 14 representatives in each delegation would receive official credentials.

Multilateral Talks 'No Certainty'

TA2310163891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 oct 91

[Excerpts] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said there is no certainty that the multilateral talks will open two weeks after the convening of the Madrid conference as has been decided. Minister Pankin made the remarks to our correspondent Gid'on Kouts after conferring in Paris with Secretary Baker. [passage omitted]

Israel will present the United States today with its acceptance of the invitation to participate in the Madrid conference. Our Washington correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Ambassador Zalman Shoval will transmit the government's decision to National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft. Shoval will also make clear to Scowcroft the Israeli position on Palestinian representation and on the Palestinians who want the status of advisers to the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the conference.

Levi Briefs Knesset on Peace Conference

TA2310144391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said that Israel is going to the peace conference sure of itself and will be firm in the negotiations on issues vital to its positions and principles. The aim of the conference is to sign a peace treaty with the Arab countries and to work out an arrangement with the Palestinians, Levi said. He pointed out that the United States made sure that the ground would be solid and signed a series of assurances for Israel. Correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the foreign minister made the remarks in response to a motion on the Knesset agenda.

Country To Stand Firm on Policy

TA2310154691 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Excerpts] Since Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not find it necessary to address the Knesset on Israel's attendance of the peace conference, Knesset members [MK's] were forced to invite Foreign Minister David Levi to address the plenum since they heard about the Madrid conference from the media. David Levi heard in the Knesset expressions of support for his policy from the opposition. Hayim Oron of MAPAM [United Workers Party] promised him full parliamentary support. [passage omitted]

While the left promised the government a security net against opposition from within the coalition, Levi heard an expression of no confidence from 'Uzi Landau of his own faction:

[Begin Landau recording] I wanted to tell the foreign minister that I have confidence in the government, but I do not have confidence in its policy. The people are very good, but the path they chose is fraught with too many dangers, and we are going to Madrid susceptible to terrible dangers. [end recording]

Levi responded:

[Begin Levi recording] One can say that Israel is approaching this major step under the best possible circumstances available at any time. [end recording]

MK Yosi Sarid told Levi that his party was extending its best wishes to the Israeli Government on its attendance. [passage omitted]

The foreign minister acknowledged the historic importance of the Madrid conference:

[Begin Levi recording] We are perhaps facing the start of a historic event which presents a chance to achieve the peace to which Israel has aspired since its establishment. Nobody is deluding himself that the road will be easy. It is true that we are going to face tests and perhaps crises during the talks, but just as we insisted on achieving the best possible conditions prior to the opening of the negotiations we will know how to stand firm on Israel's just interests and positions during its proceedings.

Arens Warns Knesset of 'Nuclear Weapons Era'

TA2310203991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Oct 91 p 5

[Report from the Knesset by Hayim Shibi]

[Text] "The Middle East is marching toward a nuclear weapons era. This is the reality we will have to live in and prepare for; parallel with this, we will also have to

take political action." These remarks were made yesterday by Defense Minister Moshe Arens at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"It seems to me that the U.S. Administration is determined and firm in its actions in Iraq, but let me remind you that there is also danger that the technology developed in Iraq might reach other countries, such as Libya, as well," the minister added.

Arens also talked about sentencing killer terrorists to death, even those who do not use live ammunition but only cold steel weapons: "These are people who behave not like human beings but like beasts. I will do everything I can so that the amendment to the law on this issue is passed and the option to hand down death sentences is made available."

In reaction to these remarks, Knesset Member Hagay Merom (Labor Party) said: "What is your reason for this? Today it is possible to request the death penalty in certain cases but you have not taken up that option! Did you consider all the ramifications of this, or where to put the gallows? It is hard for me understand the timing you have chosen—you, of all people, a person who was considered one of the leaders of the political process."

'Ezer Weizman (Labor) yesterday joined Arens' assessment of the nuclear weapon threat: "The next war will not be conventional. The nuclear issue is gaining momentum."

Members of the committee with a rich military experience, such as Yitzhaq Rabin and Mordekhay Gur, also supported Arens' position that Israel cannot give up what was called "the alleged sortie" in Iraq. Arens again related the protest from the United States on the matter: "The protest was worded very sharply, and not delicately," he said.

Eytan, Ze'evi Assess Palestinian Delegation List

TA2310125191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] This morning Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi demanded that the Inner Cabinet discuss the composition of the Palestinian delegation as published yesterday by Faysal al-Husayni. The prime minister responded curtly: We shall examine the list and then decide.

Minister Ze'evi this morning said that the Palestinian list does not meet the criteria set by the Israeli Government. It includes Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi from Gaza, who is one of the founders of the PLO; Samih Kan'an, a convicted terrorist; and members of the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The Palestinian advisory council ploy is a serious deviation, Ze'evi said, and he demanded that President Bush not be given a positive answer until 1800 this evening Washington time, as stipulated in the invitations to the conference. Ze'evi continued by saying that the delegation to the conference was not the private fiefdom of Foreign Minister David Levi. Ze'evi said that in his opinion Prime Minister Shamir should head the Israeli delegation to the talks, and that Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu should also be included.

Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan had some proposals to improve the lineup of the Israeli delegation, too. In a letter he gave Prime Minister Shamir this morning, Eytan suggested that an advisory committee made up of five representatives of the coalition parties accompany the delegation. These advisers would make doubly sure that decisions on problematic issues that are not acceptable to the government would be made in Jerusalem. According to Eytan's proposal, the advisers would also report directly to Jerusalem. The minister said that the lessons of Camp David show that checks and balances must be established in the Israeli delegation to Madrid.

'Ashrawi Accepts Invitation; Presents Names

TA2310182291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Report by Moti Amir in East Jerusalem]

[Text] The news conference after Faysal al-Husayni's meeting with the U.S. and Soviet consuls has just ended. It was preceded by last-minute consultations between al-Husayni and his Palestinian colleagues over the composition of the advisory council attached to the Madrid delegation. We have learned that al-Husayni has come under heavy pressure to include more representatives in the council from the refugee camps. Let us return, however, to the news conference in al-Husayni's home after his meeting with U.S. Consul General Molly Williamson and the Soviet consul. Dr. 'Ashrawi said after the meeting that she and her colleagues presented the consuls with the Palestinians' official agreement to attend the Madrid conference.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] We presented them, in the name of Mr. al-Husayni, with a letter which contains the official Palestinian response. Although when we gave the list of names we had told them that our response was positive—we gave them the names on the 19th as a positive response. Today we gave them the official written response because today is the deadline and the written response included also the Palestinian political position, recognition of the terms of reference for the conference, and what came in the letter of... [end recording]

[Amir translates Ms. 'Ashrawi's remarks and continues] We learned a few minutes ago that there would also be last-minute changes in the advisory council. Dr. 'Ashrawi confirmed that there would be changes and that more people would be added to the list. We have a list of seven people, including some from refugee camps. I will read the names: Radwan Abu-'Ayyash; Ziyad Abu-Zayyad; Radi al-Jara'i; Jamil al-Tarifi; Ahmad al-Yajizi of Gaza; 'Abd-al-Hadi Abu-Khusa, a communist from

the al-Shati' refugee camp; and Salah Abu-Laban, who was released in the Ahmad Jibril deal and belongs to the 'Abd-Rabbuh wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and lives in the al-Duhayshah refugee camp. All these will probably be added to the advisory council to please the various factions in the territories and to avoid pressure on al-Husayni.

On Delegate List, Settlement Freeze

TA2310183491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Report by Mark Weiss]

[Text] A written confirmation of Palestinian participation was handed over to the two consuls general at the East Jerusalem home of Faysal al-Husayni this evening. They also handed over a written response outlining Palestinian positions for the peace talks.

Spokesperson Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi said that names may be added to the seven-member advisory committee, which consists of East Jerusalemites, and members of the Palestinian diaspora. She said the advisers will get official recognition but provided no details on this point. Dr. 'Ashrawi stressed that the Palestinians reserve the right to issue their own demands at the peace conference. I asked her if they will demand an Israeli settlement freeze.

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] We will not only be asking for a settlement freeze, we will be pressing for a halt to all settlement activity because it violates the integrity of the process, it violates UN resolutions, it violates our rights, and it negates the very foundations on which the conference is based, which is land for peace.

[Weiss] Will the Palestinians be offering any confidence-building measures such as an end to the intifadah?

['Ashrawi] The intifadah is not a negotiable entity; the intifadah is, as I always say, a natural response to an abnormal situation, which is the occupation. When you remove the causes of the intifadah, you end the intifadah, but not before. [end recording]

The Palestinians will leave on Friday morning for Jordan, where they will hold intensive consultations in Amman with Jordanian officials before leaving for Madrid.

Demonstrators at al-Husayni's Home Protest Talks

TA2310143291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] About 20 women and children demonstrated this afternoon outside the home of Faysal al-Husayni against the Palestinian delegation's participation in the peace conference. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the demonstrators included relatives of detainees and people killed in the intifadah. They carried placards with slogans saying: No to Defeat; Where Are Our Legitimate Rights? One of the demonstrators said that Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi were not elected and do not represent her. She said it is not a peace process and that the conference will not bring peace to the Palestinians.

Eytan: U.S. Policy on Syrian Arms Bringing War

TA2310120091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan, head of the Tzomet movement, has claimed that U.S. policy is leading to war, rather than bringing us closer to peace. His remarks were directed against what he called "the U.S. steps to permit the supply of arms, including missiles and sophisticated weapons, to Syria."

Minister Eytan asserted: "The Americans are not honest brokers. Not only do they not prevent Syria from buying weapons, but they even sign secret agreements that allow those weapons to reach their destination." Minister Eytan said.

Eytan called on Shamir to prevent the supply of massive amounts of weapons to Syria, saying that "it is absurd for a country professing its desire for peace to be constantly purchasing weapons."

Minister Eytan also believes that Prime Minister Shamir should head the Israeli delegation to the peace conference, because attendance by the senior leadership will prove our true intentions to the other participants. "If President Mubarak and the king of Jordan attend, the presence of Shamir and the other heads of state will underscore Syria's isolation and insensitivity to the issue of peace."

Eretz Yisra'el Front Accepts Role in Talks

TA2310114091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] Mikha'el Eytan and Tzahi Hanegbi, who head the Eretz Yisra'el Front, met yesterday with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon and made clear that they would not support his positions against the peace conference. They said the special rally of Front supporters scheduled for the eve of the Madrid conference was meant as a show of unity and an expression of support for the prime minister.

Eytan and Hanegbi told Sharon of the three principles to be demonstrated at the rally: an acceptance of Israel's participation in the conference; a closing of ranks by the national camp led by Shamir; and the scrupulous upholding of the Likud's principles within the framework of the Camp David accords.

Minister Sharon made it clear that this was not a personal battle but an ideological struggle, saying that he would continue to fight for his positions. Nevertheless, Sharon asserted he would take a lower profile on personal issues, in order to call attention to the fundamental dangers posed by the Madrid conference.

Arens: Lebanese Army Responsible for Incidents

TA2310164191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that the Lebanese Army is responsible for the worsening situation in South Lebanon because it disarmed the Amal fighters but decided not to confront Hizballah following instructions from Syria. Minister Arens visited South Lebanon and the site of the attack in which three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed earlier this week.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the defense minister will soon be presented with the deployment required to face the growing Hizballah attempts to carry out attacks in South Lebanon.

Two roadside explosives blew up in South Lebanon today. Three South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded in one of the attacks. There were no casualties in the other attack. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Hizballah took responsibility for the two incidents.

Report on Dimona Reactor Fire Said 'Tendentious'

TA2310133891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by Pazit Ravina]

[Text] In reaction to the report in NUCLEONICS WEEKLY on a fire at the Dimona nuclear facility, Yuval Ne'eman, minister of energy and infrastructure and of science and technology, said yesterday: "There is nothing new in this report. This invention was first mentioned by U.S. circles six months ago, and now they have taken the dust off of it and aired it again as part of the overall pressure on Israel. The report was tendentious then, but now this undertone is much more blatant. If last time they claimed that the Dimona nuclear reactor, which they believe produces plutonium, is obsolete and should stop operating, now they also want us to sign the nuclear arms nonproliferation convention. But as far as we are concerned, the situation remains unchanged, so that I would suggest that they focus on what Iraq currently possesses before they approach us."

The NUCLEONICS WEEKLY report raises doubts about the safety of the reactor, which has been in operation since 1963. The sources of the report even cite sources in Dimona, including Mayor Gabi Lalush, expressing concern about the proximity of the radioactive waste dump.

Autonomy for Territories Seen No Longer Possible

TA2310123391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Oct 91 p B1

[Commentary by Dani Rubinstein: "It Is Already Too Late for Autonomy"]

[Text] For nearly 25 years, since 1967, very few supporters of Greater Israel have demanded that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip be fully annexed and Israeli law be applied to them. There were so few, it is hard to even name one.

The problem was never political. For example, several years ago the Bank of Israel published a report arguing that Israel's National Security Law should not be applied to the territories. If that were tried, the National Insurance Institute would have to pay the Arab families in West Bank and Gaza the child support allocations stipulated by law, and even pay their reduced pensions (minus the addition given to military veterans) just as the Israeli Arabs get. This would almost double (!) the average income of the Arab families in the territories. Israel would need enormous amounts of money, for which the state would have to seek donations and extensive loans.

From the beginning, however, when it was clear that there was no intention or possibility of annexing the territories, the Israeli administration wanted to show the Arab residents that they benefit from Israel's rule over the territories. One of the first resolutions of Begin's Likud government was to equate civil services in the territories with those in Israel. This was a declarative resolution with no practical implications. It was made after long years of bragging about achievements in improving the standard of living of the Arab residents in the territories. Until the mid-1980's, the Defense Ministry annually published a brochure with impressive data on the increased income and improved services in the territories. It is a little embarrassing now to recall some of the old cliches, such as enlightened occupation or liberal military government, that many used to describe Israeli rule.

At one point they stopped publishing the brochures (except for one which was published, ironically, on the eve of the intifadah in 1987). For various reasons, the rise in the standard of living in the territories stopped around the time the Lebanon war ended. More important, there was the impression that the Israeli administration lost interest in the issue. Over the last several years, primarily since the peak of the intifadah, Israeli rule in the territories has no longer been portrayed as caring for the welfare of the population. No one even pretended to do so. The entire Israeli administration, including its civil branches, dealt only with punitive measures: detentions, restrictions, confiscations, cancellation of services, demolitions, and deportations. At that point the Israeli administration practically signed a check announcing that, as a matter of fact, it is somehow willing to give up ruling there. An administration that

only holds a stick, with no pretense of serving the subjects or appealing to them, is one that has already taken the first steps toward its withdrawal.

The Israeli delegation that will report to the fight over the territories at the peace conference will, therefore, be asked to cash the check. The delegation will be able to tell no one that Israeli rule is doing even a little good for the Palestinians under it. It will have to admit publicly: Israeli rule over the Palestinians in the territories is all violence and forceful suppression; we cannot and do not want to rule like that. Then, Israel will offer the idea of self-rule—autonomy, with no control over land and water, no border inspections, and without the ability to sever economic ties with Israel. This is a prison-camp autonomy, where the inmates are allowed to cook their own meals and arrange their own entertainment. Even the magic formula of direct negotiations no longer applies to the Palestinian-Jordanian front. For many years, Israeli representatives held numerous direct and unmediated talks with residents of the territories and Jordanian rulers, and nothing happened.

Historic circumstances have brought about negotiations on the future of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at a time when no one has any illusions any more. If Prime Minister Shamir is not gloomy in view of the opening of the conference, he should be. It brings news of trouble for all those who believe that the Israeli rule over 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem can go on like this for ever.

Israelis Increasing Presence by '50 to 75%'

NC2310174591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The Israeli occupation forces today continued their shelling and siege of several of the villages of al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. Reports from the south and western al-Biqa' indicate that the enemy forces increased their military presence in the occupied border strip by 50 to 75 percent and are conducting intensive ground, air, and naval movements. The enemy and its agents have declared a state of maximum alert.

Meanwhile, our correspondent in the south said a delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross has managed to enter Yuhmur, which was under siege for three days, and accompanied five inhabitants out of the village at 1530 today. Yuhmur inhabitants say that several Lebanese Army soldiers are stranded inside the village because the occupation forces and its agents have blocked all the roads leading to the village.

Syrians Increase Presence in Ba'labakk

NC2310185891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The Syrian Arab forces have reinforced their units on the northern and southern approaches to Ba'labakk, setting up permanent and temporary checkpoints there. They also conducted patrols in the city's streets, particularly in al-Sharawinah quarter where they stationed large numbers of troops to contain the repercussions of the recent clashes between the Ja'far clan and Hizballah.

Muthlij family members in northern al-Biqa' and al-Hirmil held a meeting at which the conferees maintained that the recent incidents have no connection with their family. They called on the concerned parties, notables of the area, and Deputy 'Ali Hamad Ja'far to seek to settle the quarrel. They cited the sincere and close relations between the Muthlij family and the Ja'far Clan.

[Clandestine Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1645 GMT on 23 October reports: "A source close to Hizballah has described the current incidents in al-Biqa' as dangerous and more serious than a mere quarrel among individuals. He warned that Hizballah will confront any designs against it in al-Biqa', as it does in the south.

["A fresh report on the fighting in Ba'labakk indicates that while clashes were raging between Hizballah members and the Ja'far clan in the city's al-Laylaki area in the past few hours, leaving one person dead, the Ja'far clan was mobilizing 3,000 gunmen to attack the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks in Ba'labakk. In addition, 130-mm field guns and 40-barrel rocket launchers have been deployed in Dayr al-Harf near Dayr al-Ahmar township. In an attempt to remedy the situation, intensive mediation efforts were carried out under the supervision of Syrian military officials. Similar efforts were made by Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Shaykh Shams-al-Din, Minister Dallul, and the Iranian Embassies in Beirut and Damascus. Security sources have not ruled out the possibility that an Iranian delegation might visit Damascus in the event the current mediation fails."]

Resistance Will Continue Anti-Israeli Operations

NC2410073391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] An Islamic Resistance source in the south has affirmed that resistance operations against the Zionist occupation forces and its agents will continue as long as these forces occupy part of the south.

He added: The scale of the Zionist response reveals the scale of the operations executed daily by the heroes of the Islamic Resistance against the occupation. The difference is that our resistance targets the military presence of the enemy and its agents while the enemy and agent forces respond ferociously, targeting the people, towns, and villages of the south.

Al-Hirawi Urges Rebuilding Army

NC2410081191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Lebanese Ambassador to Paris Johnny 'Abduh last night held a reception in honor of President Ilyas al-Hirawi attended by 2,000 members of the Lebanese community.

In a speech he delivered on the occasion, President al-Hirawi called on the Lebanese to return to Lebanon, and said that the war has ended and peace has been established. He called for abandoning vituperations and he suggested closing the chapter of the past and working together to rebuild Lebanon. He said: My appeal is to rebuild our army. This army must be rehabilitated in men and equipment, because it safeguards the homeland.

Regarding the south, the president said: We support the liberation of the south, because the winds that blew from the south were the cause of the war in Lebanon. He maintained that the south can be liberated through national willpower and the assistance of brothers and friends, including France. He said: Peace is the way to independence, and I am afraid that we may lose both if we call for independence without peace. [passage omitted]

India

Delhi To Help in Ending Cambodian Problem

BK2410053891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] A peace treaty to end 13-year old civil war in Cambodia has been signed in the French capital, Paris. The four Cambodian factions and representatives of 19 countries, including India, signed the historic treaty yesterday. The [words indistinct] the ceremony to work for peace. The treaty paves the way for free elections in Cambodia. The agreement envisages an unprecedented role for the United Nations. The world body will monitor the cease-fire, repatriate refugees, and administer Cambodia till the general elections. The chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, said the treaty will lead to peace, justice, and democracy. The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, who represented India at the conference, said New Delhi is willing to help Cambodia in all possible ways.

Union Cabinet Discusses Disputed Shrine Issue

BK2410090191 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] The union cabinet reviewed the current situation in Ayodhya at a meeting in New Delhi last night. According to official sources, all aspects of the issue and the options before the central government were considered at the meeting. The Congress-I Working Committee is meeting today to consider the situation. The CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, has urged the government to convene parliament immediately to discuss the developments in Ayodhya. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he said his party does not favor using Article 356 [words indistinct] the state government as [words indistinct]. But Mr. Surjeet asked the center to immediately take strong measures to deal with the situation.

The railway minister, Mr. Jaffar Sharief, has condemned the attempt by some leaders to create confusion and division in society. In a statement in New Delhi, Mr. Sharief took strong exception to a photograph in a section of the press yesterday, showing Syed Shahabuddin, Mr. Sulaiman Saith, and Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann jointly holding a sword. The minister said the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine] issue is to be settled either through negotiations or a judicial verdict. He said that minorities strongly believe in the constitutional mechanism to solve their problems. Mr. Jaffar Sharief said the Muslim community will never associate itself with any individual or ideology that preaches violence, intolerance, and divisiveness.

Akali Dal-Mann President Arrested

BK2310075691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] The Akali Dal-Mann president, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, has been arrested by the Ghaziabad police for defying prohibitory orders. The senior superintendent of police, Ghaziabad, Mr. S.K. Mishra, told our correspondent that Mr. Mann was on his way from Delhi to Ayodhya along with about 20 of his party colleagues. He was arrested as soon as he crossed the border from the capital into Ghaziabad District in violation of prohibitory orders under Section 144 [preventing the assembly of more than four persons].

Iran

Embassy Issues Statement on Bakhtiar Case

LD2410092991 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 24 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, Oct. 24, IRNA—Iran's Embassy here in a statement Wednesday expressed surprise at the resumption of biased propaganda against Iran on the assassination of Shahpur Bakhtiar, the last prime minister of the former regime of Iran and especially its coincidence with new developments in Tehran-Paris ties.

Bakhtiar was stabbed to death at his Paris residence in August.

The Embassy once again denied that Iranian officials were ever involved in Bakhtiar's assassination. "Prejudgements by certain French media before legal procedures are completed, indicates that there are hands at work to prevent expansion of friendly ties between the two countries by accusing Iranian officials and misleading the public opinion."

The statement expressed hope that the French judiciary would observe justice during the legal procedure of the case and would take the necessary precautions to prevent any blow on the prestige of individuals by certain mass media.

A section of the French media has referred to a writ of arrest for advisor of Iran's minister of posts, telegraph and telephone Hoseyn Sheikh Attar by the judge in charge of Bakhtiar's case and have accused high ranking Iranian officials including President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of involvement in the assassination.

The French media campaign coincides with the visit to Paris of Mahmoud Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, to settle a 12-year financial dispute between the two countries.

Political observers maintain that these allegations will undoubtedly leave a negative impact on bilateral relations.

* Customs Director Seeks Help Abroad for Change

92AS0116I London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Oct 91 p 4

[Text] The Customs of the Islamic Republic, in inviting and employing a group of customs affairs experts from developed countries in the world, is trying to change the organization of the customs of the country and the conditions that govern this organization at the present time by devising and implementing new laws. Mohammad Khan, the director general of the Customs of the Islamic Republic, made the above announcement and said: Through the planning that has been done, soon the customs of Abadan Port will also begin operations, and thus some of the present needs of the country will be alleviated.

The above-mentioned official added: "With the implementation of the new regulations, government and private sector goods will be released prior to bureaucratic procedures and payment of customs fees with valid guarantees." The director general of the Customs of the Islamic Republic said to the representatives of the media that soon the release of cars in the customs will be computerized. Mohammad Khan continued his interview and announced that the entry of goods from the free port of Qeshm to Bandar 'Abbas is prohibited, and those who engage in such actions are smuggling. He pointed out that in Qeshm, only the Islamic Republic and foreign countries make investments, and the planning for this island is mainly industrial. In the conclusion of his interview, the above-mentioned official said: "The revenues of the national customs in the first 5 months of this year amounted to 200 billion rials, which shows an increase of nearly three times compared to the customs revenues during a similar period in 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991]"

* Mohtashemi Ignores Court Subpoena

92AS0116H London KEYHAN in Persian 10 Oct 91 p 12

[Text] While it was rumored that two clerics, one in Mashhad and the other in Tehran, have been summoned to the Special Court of Clergy, the names of these clerics were not released until it became known that the cleric who has been summoned to the Tehran court is 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and the cleric summoned in Mashhad is Abolfazl Musavian, the director of KHORASAN newspaper, who is one of the well-known opponents of the gang of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and particularly 'Ali Khamene'i, in Mashhad.

While Abolfazl Musavian was arrested after refusing to appear at the Prosecutor's Office and is now awaiting trial, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi ignored the summons of the Special Prosecutor's Office of Clerics and in a letter to the Prosecutor's Office considered his summons contrary to all laws.

Mohtashemi wrote: "Despite the fact that my address as a representative of the people of Tehran to the Majles is known to everyone, the gentlemen presented the summons first to the JAHAN-E ESLAMI newspaper and then to the office of BAYAN magazine."

He then added that since the type of accusation against him is included among "political and press" offenses, which must be investigated in the presence of a jury and in a Justice Department court, he does not consider the Special Court of Clergy qualified to investigate this allegation and, "therefore, my presence is by no means required by law." SALAM newspaper has announced that the summons of Mohtashemi to the Prosecutor's Office was the result of an interview he had with JAHAN-E ESLAMI newspaper.

Informed circles in Iran say that for this reason the prelude to the election campaign for the fourth Majles has ended and the battle for control of this Majles has entered a new, more serious phase. A question that is now raised in the circles is, given Mohtashemi's obstinacy, will the Special Court of Clergy in Tehran withdraw or will it issue a warrant for the arrest of Mohtashemi for ignoring the summons?

* Tehran Main Provider of European Petroleum

92AS0116G London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Sep 91 p 4

[Text] In the course of 1990, with the export of 54,313,000 tons of crude oil to the member countries of the European Economic Community, Iran became the largest supplier of crude oil to the members of this society among the OPEC members.

The Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic announced the amount of crude oil exported to the members of the EEC in 1989 as 48,825,000 tons and added that a comparison of the 2 figures shows an increase of 9 percent in the export of Iranian crude oil to the member countries of the EEC.

According to the statistical report published in the PETROLEUM NEWS JOURNAL, members of the EEC purchased a total of 255.7 million tons of crude oil from the OPEC members in 1990. This figure comprises about 62 percent of the total imports of oil by these countries from various countries in the world. The amount of crude oil purchased by the members of the EEC from the 13 members of OPEC in 1989 amounted to about 247 [million] tons. The above-mentioned journal pointed out in its report that the total of the imports of crude oil of the members of the EEC in 1990 has been announced as 411 million tons.

Sri Lanka

Four Major Parties Decide To Boycott Speaker

BK2210094291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, four major opposition parties have decided to boycott a meeting of party leaders presided over by the parliament speaker, Mr. M.H. Mohamed, and said that they would not be bound by decisions taken at such meetings. The four opposition parties are: the Sri Lanka Freedom Party, the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, the United Socialist Alliance, and the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front]. These parties are reported to have made their intentions clear that they will not cooperate in the conduct of the proceedings of the house if it is presided over by the speaker, Mr. M.H. Mohamed. The Sri Lankan Parliament begins its sitting tomorrow.